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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Andrew THOMAS, et al. ) Re: Information Disclosure  
Serial No.: 10/005,376 ) Statement  
Filed: December 4, 2001 ) Group: 2161  
For: "ENCODING AND DECODING OF ) Examiner: not yet assigned  
SOUND LINKS" ) Our Ref: B-4410 619360-7  
 ) Date: December 20, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) include those cited in the European Search Report for a related European Patent Application No. EP 01309990.8. A copy of the Search Report (3 pages) is enclosed herewith..

Korean Document No. 2000-0017854 is not in English. A concise English-language explanation of the relevance of Korean Document No. 2000-0017854 can be found in the enclosed English-language abstract.

It should be noted that the above-identified application may be related by subject matter to the following U.S. Application(s): 10/005,377, filed December 4, 2001 (published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0107942 A1); and 10/005,379, December 4, 2001 (published as U.S. Patent Application Publication

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No. 2002/0107693 A1). Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a) and M.P.E.P. 2004, paragraph 9, the applicant brings these co-pending applications to the attention of the Examiner. The Examiner should consider this information during the prosecution of the above-identified application. However, citation of these applications does not constitute an admission that the claims of the present application are substantially similar or similar to those of the applications listed above.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

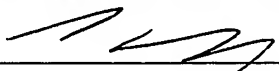
The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), if the Examiner believes that such a fee is due in order for this IDS to be considered on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

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The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450",  
on December 20, 2004 by Shana Morda.



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Respectfully submitted,

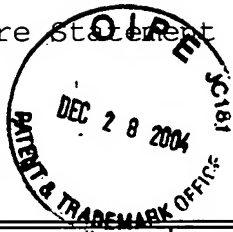


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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)  
Copy of Search Report for EP 01309990.8 (3 pages)  
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-4410 619360-7	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/005,376
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANTS Andrew THOMAS, et al.	
	FILING DATE December 4, 2001	GROUP 2161

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2002/0107693 A1	8/2002	Thomas	704	270.1	
	2002/0107942 A1	8/2002	Thomas et al.	709	219	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	0 847 179 A2	6/1998	EP			
	1 047 004 A2	10/2000	EP			
	2000-0017854	4/2000	KR			abstract

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

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<u>EXAMINER</u>	<u>DATE CONSIDERED</u>

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.